

TRAVELING TO CANADA, BERMUDA AND MEXICO
IMPORTANT CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL LAND AND SEA TRAVEL
CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

Effective January 31, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will require that all U.S. citizens and Canadian citizens crossing the Canadian or Mexican borders by land or sea be able to prove identity and citizenship. This new requirement applies to all U.S. and Canadian citizens ages 19 years and older.

After January 31, 2008, U.S. and Canadian citizens should no longer expect that they will be able to prove identity and citizenship by relying on an oral declaration alone. Instead, all U.S. and Canadian citizens will be required to present a document or combination of documents to prove identity and citizenship. Travelers who do not present documents satisfying those requirements may be delayed at border crossings.

A list of all acceptable documents can be found in the attached Customs and Border Protection (CBP) publication. Some of the more common ones are listed below.

Single documents that prove both identity and citizenship: a passport is sufficient to provide identity and citizenship. By Spring 2008 the State Department intends to make available a limited-use Passport Card specifically for land and sea travel from these neighboring countries.

American citizens can present two separate documents – one of them to prove identity and one to provide citizenship – documents sufficient to prove identity include driver's licenses or identification cards issued by federal, state, or local governments – the documents must have a photo, name, and date of birth. Military identification cards are also sufficient.

Documents sufficient to prove citizenship include a U.S. birth certificate issued by a federal, state, or local government, U.S. naturalization certificate, and U.S. Consular Report of Birth Abroad.

U.S. and Canadian citizen children ages 18 and under will be required to present a birth certificate issued by a federal, state, country, or municipal authority.

Lawful permanent residents must present a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551) or other valid evidence of lawful permanent residence.

Additional information about new DHS international and sea travel document procedures are available on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection web site at: <http://www.cbp.gov>.